

challenges that their families are facing.

My friends, we owe it to the hardworking people of our country who are struggling to get by and who are playing by the rules but just waiting for someone to stand up for them rather than the rich guy on Wall Street. We owe it to America's hardworking people to have a serious and thoughtful debate in the hopes of producing a smart and essential budget for our country.

Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have become captive to an extremist agenda that harms people who are already hurting the most. That's why it's critical we ask our Republican friends, Just what are your priorities? Do we have the courage to come together—not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans—and invest in our country's greatest asset—our people; the people who built this great Nation and who we must believe in, now more than ever, to move our country forward to a prosperous and promising future.

#### A NEVADA HERO: FRANCISCO "FRANK" CEDULA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HECK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HECK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a heroic Nevadan who passed away February 2, 2011. His name was Francisco "Frank" Cedula. He was born in the Philippines in Pasay City on January 7, 1923. Frank studied journalism at the University of Santo Tomas until he joined the Philippine resistance in 1941. At just 17 years old, he fought to disrupt the Japanese military's occupation. Eventually, Frank was captured and tortured by the Japanese, but he managed to escape and rejoin the guerilla fighters.

On December 26, 1941, Frank fought in the Battle of Piis. More than 100 American and Filipino soldiers fought and died in the battle. Their sacrifice gave General MacArthur's troops, his small USAFFE forces, enough time to assemble in Bataan. Commander Cedula was the lone survivor of the 3-day battle. He was bayoneted four times and left for dead. The natives assigned to bury the dead found him alive and nursed him back to health. Once healthy, he again rejoined the guerilla forces and continued the fight. Later in the war, Frank helped liberate American prisoners of war.

When the war ended, Frank served as the Filipino Veterans Legion National Commander for almost three decades. During his term as National Commander, the Filipino Veterans Legion created significant new benefits for their members. In 2005, Commander Cedula authored "Filipino Veterans of WWII—An Endangered Human Specie" to help inform congressional Members and veteran supporters about World War II Filipino veterans who were promised, and later denied, recognition and benefits for 60 years.

Frank was a man who set goals, then accomplished them. Frank achieved one goal when the World War II Filipino Veterans Equity Bill became law. After the law passed, Frank coauthored a new book, "Denial and Restitution by America." This sequel to his first book thanked the congressional and Senate leaders who fought to turn the World War II Filipino Veterans Equity Bill into law.

For 20 years, he planned to construct a memorial marker at kilometer 134 in Quezon, Philippines, to honor and memorialize the men who lost their lives in the battle. Commander Cedula returned from a trip to the Philippines where he finalized the funding for that dream.

I am honored to call Commander Cedula a friend and a Nevadan.

#### CONGRATULATING WORLD CHAMPION GREEN BAY PACKERS ON WINNING SUPER BOWL XLV

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and thank my good friend and colleague from the Pittsburgh area, JASON ALTMIRE, for delivering on his Super Bowl bet with me last evening.

As we now know, a little over a week ago, my Green Bay Packers defeated his Pittsburgh Steelers 31-25 to win Super Bowl XLV. It was the Packers' 13th world title and their fourth Super Bowl victory, enabling them to bring home once again, where it belongs, the Vince Lombardi Trophy to Titletown, USA—Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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To the victor belongs the spoils. So, last night, JASON and his staff delivered to my office some of Pittsburgh's finest cuisine—Primanti sandwiches and Iron City brew. Now, it didn't quite rival the world-famous tailgate parties that we have at Lambeau Field, but it wasn't bad.

We may have fun with our sports teams around here from time to time; but it is also useful to remind ourselves that at the end of the day, when the game is played and the score is settled, it is only just a game.

No one expressed that more eloquently than the MVP of Super Bowl XLV, the Green Bay Packers' quarterback, Aaron Rodgers. It was recently reported that, earlier in the season, Aaron Rodgers had sent a big care package out to his former girlfriend's elementary school in California, where she is teaching. In it was a host of school supplies, along with a bunch of Packer T-shirts and sweatshirts and other Packer paraphernalia. Also included in the care package was a note that Aaron Rodgers wrote to his former girlfriend, the teacher of that class, which read: Just to be clear, what you're doing in your life right now is a heck of a lot more important than what I'm doing in my life.

It's really refreshing to see a professional athlete at the peak of his career, at the height of his game, stay so well-grounded and understand what really is important to the future of our country, which is the future of our children and their educational success in the classroom. Whether he called for it or not, Aaron Rodgers has turned into a terrific role model for all of our children across this country. It is a constant reminder of the challenges that we still face and of the values that we still must hold dear in this country.

So I, too, want to congratulate Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers football team for their success; I want to congratulate the Packers organization and the tens of thousands of Packers fans who are part owners of the Packers franchise, including my own family.

In the immortal words of my 12-year-old son, Matthew, who turned to me shortly after their Super Bowl victory last week: Hey, Dad. You know, that was a lot of fun. Let's do it again.

So, indeed, let's do this again next season. I wish the Packers well, and I thank JASON ALTMIRE and his staff for delivering the goodies to our office last night.

#### BLOWING SMOKE AMIDST DIRE FINANCIAL STRAITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, our Nation is in dire financial straits, and, unfortunately, many on both sides of the aisle are blowing smoke about how serious they are in dealing with this problem.

The fact is we are looking at a record \$1.6 trillion deficit. Now, it wouldn't have been a record and it wouldn't have been \$1.6 trillion but for one vote: the Obama-McConnell tax compromise, the Republicans insisting that all of the Bush tax cuts passed in a time of surplus should be continued in a time of record deficits. That means, with borrowed money, there will be tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires and other special interests, or we will forgo the revenue of having them pay their fair share of taxes, say the rate they paid in the Clinton era when the economy did very well and they did very well.

So with that one single vote, suddenly we jumped up to a \$1.6 trillion deficit. Now, the Republican majority says, oh, no, no, no, that cutting taxes doesn't count. Their rules deem that cutting taxes doesn't count. We can cut taxes without reducing spending; we can borrow the money and increase the deficit and the debt, but they say it doesn't count. They have deemed that in their rules. So they're really blowing smoke here. You cannot pretend that you're serious about the deficit if you say we can continue to reduce income. Here is what this year's Federal budget looks like.